

Pillsbury Milling Complex,
Bran House
116 S.E. Third Avenue
Minneapolis
Hennepin County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-29-5-B

HABS
MINN.
27-MINAP,
3-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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MINN,
27-MINAP,
3-B-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PILLSBURY MILLING COMPLEX,
BRAN HOUSE

HABS No. MN-29-5B

Location:

116 S.E. Third Avenue, Minneapolis, Hennepin
County, Minnesota.

USGS Minneapolis South Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Zone 15;
480100:4981060; 480320:4980940; 480260:4980800;
480040:4980940

Present Owner:

The Pillsbury Company
Pillsbury Center
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Present Occupant:

The Pillsbury Company

Present Use:

Office Space and Storage

Significance:

The Bran House is a part of the Pillsbury Milling
Complex. Bran, pancake mix, cereal and later
other similar products were produced and bagged
for shipment in this building.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Built in 1881.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Owned by Charles A. Pillsbury
4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: Not Available
6. Alterations and Additions:
 - Nov. 13, 1888 - Brick smoke stack/cutting windows into wall
 - Nov. 15, 1882 - Repairs to burned Bran House
 - Nov. 14, 1888 - Iron awning 25' long.
 - April 24, 1890 - Cut windows through stone wall 5' x 8'
 - 1916 - New brick facing
 - Oct. 16, 1917 - Alterations and repairs to stone building - Bran House
 - Dec. 5, 1917 - Alterations and changes to penthouse and roof
 - Feb. 21, 1967 - Elevator shaft repairs.
 - Sept. 4, 1968 - Tuck point and repair tile exterior

Jan. 17, 1968 - Repairs to wall and remove canopy on 2nd St.
S.E. side and repairs to canopy on Main Street S.E. side.
March 31, 1969 - Provided opening for new boiler and close up
again.
March 6, 1970 - Structural steel support to front exterior wall.
March 7, 1970 - Install 6" block partitions with H.M. door and
frame.
Nov. 30, 1970 - 2 train sheds extensions.
Aug. 5, 1971 - Train shed extension.
March 23, 1973 - Extension of mechanical tunnel.
April 9, 1973 - Roof repairs to various roofs.
Aug. 21, 1973 - Site excavation and preparation.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: Composite of original stone construction and later additions.
2. Condition of Building: Structure is in good condition for its age, although it appears to need some exterior work...brick work is deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: 45' x 80'.
2. Foundations: Foundations are of exposed limestone.
3. Walls: The walls are of limestone with a newer facade of brick. On the first 2 floors, the walls are 28" thick while the third floor appears to be 24" thick.
4. Structural System, Framing: Unavailable at this time.
5. Chimneys: No longer in existence.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two existing exterior doors. All are rectilinear in shape.
 - b. Windows: Windows are all rectilinear. The window sills are of brick, window heads are shaped in an arch-like pattern. Some of the original windows have been filled in with concrete block. The existing front windows are 9/9 light double hung sash.

- 7. Roof: Unaccessible at this time. Has two wood penthouses.
- C. Description of Interior: Not accessible.
- D. Site:
 - 1. General Setting and Orientation: Building is located on Block 50, Lots 11 and 12 of the City of St. Anthony with front facing S.E. Third Avenue.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original Architectural Drawings: Unavailable.
- B. Early Views: The earliest views of the Bran House are found in 1890 through the period of 1920 and are located in the audio-visual library in the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- C. Interviews: April 14, Mr. Richard Ferrell - Pillsbury Co. Engineer
- D. Bibliography:

Pillsbury People 74th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Edition, 1869 - 1944, p. 4.

Minneapolis Building Permits, January 1893 to August 1973.

Sanborn Maps, 1912 to 1941.

Prepared by:
Mary Johnson
University of Minnesota
April 1987

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was prepared as a class project for Architecture 5143, Historic Building Research and Documentation, a class offered in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota. The class project was prepared under the direction of Professor Foster W. Dunwiddie and was funded by a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, Minnesota. Historical data was compiled by Mary Johnson in April 1987.